2. This Press Advisory was issued by the State Department following a letter by Ambassador Ray to US Under Secretary of State (for Political Affairs) Peter Tarnoff conveying Government of India's concern at President Clinton's letter to Pai.

(c) Government have noted the clarification issued by the State Department. Government monitor continuously all developments which impact on India's national interest and are committed to take all necessary steps to safeguard India's territorial unity and integrity.

Proposals of joint committee of India and Asian Countries

2273. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Joint Committee of India and Asian countries has finalised proposals to develop specific areas of cooperation and establishing institutional linkages; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

संसद सदस्यों द्वारा विदेश-मंत्रालय को लिखे गये पत्र

2274. **श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मोना अफजल** : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) 1 अप्रैल, 1990 से 31 मार्च, 1993 की अवधि के दौरान सांसदों द्वारा मंत्रालय को कितने पत्र लिखे गए और उनका वर्ष-वार ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ख) उनमें से कितने पत्रों की पावती भेजी गई;

(ग) कितने पत्रों के अन्तिम उत्तर भेजे गये ; और

(घ) मंत्रालय द्वारा क्रमश: सकारात्म और नकारात्मक उत्तर वाले भेजे गये अन्तिम पत्रों के पृथक-पृथक आंकड़े क्या हैं ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर० एल० भाटिया) : (क) से (घ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन की मेज पर रख दी जाएगी ।

Embassies and consulates in Foreign Countries

2275. **SHRI ASHOK MITRA:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the new embassies and consulates opened in foreign countries during the last three years;

(b) what is the number of embassies and consolates in foreign countries closed down over the same period and the details thereof; and

(c) what is the criteria followed for such openings and closures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Eleven Embassies|High Commissions|Consulates General were opened in foreign countries during the past three years. Their details are as follows:—